

Message

From: Richmond, Jonah [Richmond.Jonah@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/20/2021 8:57:01 PM
To: Kiely, Timothy [Kiely.Timothy@epa.gov]; Reaves, Elissa [Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov]; Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]; Goodis, Michael [Goodis.Michael@epa.gov]; Nesci, Kimberly [Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Dinkins, Darlene [Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: LCLAA August 4 Meeting regarding Chlorpyrifos
Attachments: August 4 Meeting Regarding Chlorpyrifos .docx (1).pdf

Please see attached follow-up from LCLAA August 4 Meeting regarding Chlorpyrifos.

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From: Karla Pineda <kpineda@lclaa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Karla Pineda <kpineda@lclaa.org>
Cc: Jose Vargas <jvargas@lclaa.org>
Subject: LCLAA August 4 Meeting regarding Chlorpyrifos

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dr. Michal Freedhoff
Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: August 4 Meeting Regarding Chlorpyrifos

Dear Administrator Regan & Assistant Administrator Freedhoff:

The Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) appreciated the opportunity to meet with Assistant Administrator Freedhoff on August 4 as the agency prepares to announce its plans to get chlorpyrifos out of our food by the Court-ordered August 20 deadline. Dr. Freedhoff heard from a wide swath of the Latinx labor movement, including those representing teachers, nurses and even chemical manufacturing workers, as well as members whose family members and themselves are former farmworkers.

Administrator Regan, **the science is clear.** Peer-reviewed studies and EPA's own Scientific Advisory Panel have demonstrated that chlorpyrifos damages children's brains; prenatal exposure to very low levels of chlorpyrifos — levels far lower than what EPA used to set regulatory limits — harms babies permanently and it is putting workers at risk. Studies show that exposure to chlorpyrifos, and other organophosphate pesticides during pregnancy, is

associated with lower birth weight, attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorder, reduced IQ, and loss of working memory. And it is also unsafe for farmworkers even with the most protective equipment.

The law is clear. Under the law, EPA must find “reasonable certainty of no harm” to children from pesticides. EPA cannot make this finding for any use of chlorpyrifos on food. The only outcome that protects our children and complies with the law is to revoke all food tolerances as soon as possible. However, as the Court said: “rather than ban the pesticide or reduce the tolerances to levels that the EPA can find **are** reasonably certain to cause no harm, the EPA has sought to evade, through one delaying tactic after another, its plain statutory duties. The FFDCA permits no further delay.”

LCLAA is, therefore, deeply concerned that the EPA is considering allowing the previous administration’s proposed food uses of chlorpyrifos to remain on the market. Such a decision would be indefensible, generating years more of litigation and delay – delay that the Court has already called “a total abdication of the EPA’s statutory duty.”

Administrator Regan and Assistant Administrator Freedhoff, if you haven’t experienced it first hand, you’ve almost certainly read about the longstanding history of industry influence on chemical regulation within EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). This is your opportunity to make a clean break and turn the page -- make that part of OCSPP’s history and not its future. This decision will be part of the Office’s, Agency’s, Administration’s and your personal legacy.

Six years ago, the Obama Administration was preparing to ban chlorpyrifos; LCLAA is confident that you will be driven by science and driven by the rule of law and finish the job. Thank you again for meeting with LCLAA’s Board and hearing our concerns.

Sincerely,



Yanira Merino
National President
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

CC:

John Lucey, Special Assistant to the Administrator
Michal Freedhoff, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Rick Keigwin, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Ed Messina, Acting Director, Office of Pesticide Programs
Catie Diaz, Special Assistant, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

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Karla Pineda-Santos
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